

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY

EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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29 JUL 2004

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

27.07.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
P58583V-WO **VT**

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/02344

International filing date (day/month/year)
30.05.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)
30.05.2002

Applicant
UTM IP LIMITED et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

*Resend of communication of 16-7-04 because
Annexes were not included.*

Name and mailing address of the International
preliminary examining authority:



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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P58583V-WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/02344	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 30.05.2003	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 30.05.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F42B12/40		
Applicant UTM IP LIMITED et al.		



1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

 These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18.11.2003	Date of completion of this report 27.07.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Herrera, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2090 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/02344

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-17 received on 06.05.2004 with letter of 03.05.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/GB 03/02344**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	9-15
	No: Claims	1-8,16,17
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/02344

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference to the documents cited in the International Search Report is made as follows:

D1: WO-A-9514903

D2: FR-A-2762385

The independent claim 1 presented during examination of the application is identical in wording to the originally filed claim 1.

Document D1 (cf. in particular fig. 2) discloses a marking projectile with a nose perforated along several slots and through which the marking substance may pass when expelled out of the projectile. The (remaining part of the) dome between the slots effectively separates said slots to ease spread of the marker upon impact with the target. The difference between the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application and the known marker projectile of D1 is the provision of an expelling member intended to push the marker substance through the slots upon impact with the target. Thus the subject matter of claim 1 is novel as regards D1.

The problem addressed with such impact markers is that of achieving a proper and reliable marking. This should be large enough to be seen at a distance. The skilled person is taught by D1 to attempt to have the tip of the projectile smeared with marker so that even at low speed impact, marking occurs. However, if the skilled person were assured that sufficient impact speed were available (dependent on the choice of gun or on the projectile properties) he would be driven by the thought of ensuring a reliable expulsion of the marker and of spreading over a large an area as possible. Among the different possibilities at hand for an engineer would appear a frangible dome of the projectile or any mechanism to force marker expulsion out of the projectile upon impact. The skilled person can draw these possibilities from the teaching of D2, in particular the second one is derivable from the passage in page 8 referring to fig. 7. To introduce this feature and so complement the projectile known from D1 would appear obvious for the skilled practitioner and the idea is devoid of inventive merit within the meaning of Article 33(3) PCT.

From the figures of D1 it can also be appreciated a cap in a domed configuration and a hollow body able to centre the expelling member. As a result the subject matter of

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International application No. PCT/GB 03/02344

claims 2 to 8. Claims 16 and 17 represent also obvious constructive details.

The combination of the features of dependent claim 9 to 15 does neither appear to be known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art.